Barriers in exporting foodgrains

4998. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of wheat and rice exported during the last two years;

(b) whether frequent increase in prices, inadequate infrastructure and administrative hardships in dealing with FCI are major barriers in exporting foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS , FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) 107.48 lakh MTs of wheat and 104.21 lakh MTs of rice have been lifted during the last two years from the Central Pool by the exporters. Wheat and rice are made available to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices/uniform price, which are fixed by the Government from time to time based on crop year, variety and location of stocks. Post Delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to them.

(b) and (c) Certain operational problems like inadequate availability of railway rakes for export of foodgrains have been reported in the recent past. Standing Committee on Export meets regularly to consider the problems of the exporters and takes steps to resolve them.

Import of commodities

†4999. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of commodities imported during the last three years and foreign exchange spent thereon, year-wise;

(b) the requisite steps so far taken by Government to indigenously produce and manufacture the commodities having been imported; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The total value of commodities imported during each of the last three years in dollar terms are given below :

Year	Value (in million $)
2000-2001	50,536
2001-2002	50,746
2002-2003	59,387*

*provisional figure

(b) and (c) The Government have liberalised foreign trade policy over the years adapting to the changing world economic scenario, harmonising with WTO commitments. However, all policy measures and encouragement are extended to increase the indigenous production and manufacture of commodities of international quality.

Commodities for BPL People in Jharkhand

†5000. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families being provided with wheat, rice and sugar under the Public Distribution System, State-wise:

(b) whether all the families living below poverty line in Jharkhand have been included under this system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of luster lost wheat

†5001. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI :

SHRI AMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of 'luster lost' wheat damaged by rain available in the godowns of FCI:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.